

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter, comprising:

a chamber having an inlet for liquid flow and an outlet for liquid flow;

a first filter stage within said chamber in fluid communication with said inlet, said first filter stage comprising a material that removes microorganisms;

a second filter stage within said chamber in fluid communication with said outlet, said second filter stage comprising activated carbon; and

said second filter stage being located within said chamber at a position that allows liquid to pass through said first filter stage prior to passing through said second filter stage.

B₁ 2(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 1, further comprising a third filter stage within said chamber, said third filter stage being constructed of a microporous material, said third filter stage being located within said chamber at a position that allows liquid to pass through said third filter stage prior to passing through said second filter stage.

3(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 1, wherein said liquid is water.

4(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 2, wherein said third filter stage is located within said chamber at a position that allows liquid to pass through said third filter stage after passing through said first filter stage.

5(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 2, wherein said third filter stage comprises microfiber glass.

6(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 5, wherein said microfiber glass is charge-modified.

7(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 6, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

8(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 2, wherein said third filter stage comprises a meltblown web.

9(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 2, wherein said third filter stage comprises a material that selectively removes turbidity-related components, sediment, and some organic materials.

10(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 2, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

11(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 1, wherein said first filter stage comprises a meltblown web.

12(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 1, wherein said first filter stage comprises microfiber glass.

13(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 12, wherein said microfiber glass is charge-modified.

14(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 13, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

15(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 1, wherein said first filter stage is microporous material.

16(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 2, wherein said third filter stage consists of a bed of granular material.

17(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 1, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

18 (Currently amended). A multistage process for filtering impurities from a liquid, said process ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of the steps of:

supplying liquid to a filter;

removing at least a portion of the microorganisms from said liquid supply in a first filtering step; and

then removing at least a portion of the organics and other non-biological components in a second filtering step using activated carbon.

19 (Original). A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 18, wherein said first filtering step is accomplished using a meltblown web.

20 (Original). A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 18, wherein said first filtering step is accomplished using a microfiber glass web.

21 (Original). A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 18, wherein said first filtering step is accomplished using a charge-modified microfiber glass web.

22 (Original). A multistage process for liquid filtration as recited in claim 21, wherein said filtering steps are conducted at the point of use for a water supply.

23 (Original). A multistage process for liquid filtration as recited in claim 18, wherein said filtering steps are conducted at the point of use for a water supply.

24 (Currently amended). ~~A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 18~~ A multistage process for filtering impurities from a liquid, said process comprising the steps of:

supplying liquid to a filter;

removing at least a portion of the microorganisms from said liquid supply in a first filtering step; and

then removing at least a portion of the organics and other non-biological components in a second filtering step using activated carbon, further comprising a third filtering step that removes sediments and some organics prior in flow to said second filtering step.

25 (Original). A multistage process for liquid filtration as recited in claim 24, wherein said filtering steps are conducted at the point of use for a water supply.

26 (Original). A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 24, wherein said third filtering step is accomplished using a microfiber glass web.

27 (Original). A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 24 wherein said third filtering step occurs before said first filtering step.

28 (Original). A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 27 wherein said third filtering step occurs after said first filtering step.

29 (Original). A multistage liquid filtration process as recited in claim 18 wherein said liquid is water.

30(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter, comprising:

an inlet for liquid flow and an outlet for liquid flow;

a first filter stage in fluid communication with said inlet, said first filter filter stage comprising a material that removes microorganisms;

a second filter stage in fluid communication with said outlet, said second filter stage comprising activated carbon; and

said second filter stage being located at a position that allows liquid to pass through said first filter stage prior to passing through said second filter stage.

31(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 30, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

32(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 30, wherein said first filter stage is a microporous material.

33(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 30, wherein said first filter stage comprises a meltblown web.

34(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 30, wherein said first filter stage comprises microfiber glass.

35(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 34, wherein said microfiber glass is charge-modified.

36(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in 35, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

37(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 30, further comprising a third filter stage, said third filter stage being constructed of a microporous material, said third filter stage being located at a position that allows liquid to pass through said third filter stage prior to passing through said second filter stage.

38(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 37, wherein said third filter stage is located at a position that allows liquid to pass through said third filter stage after passing through said first filter stage.

39(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 37, wherein said third filter stage comprises a meltblown web.

40(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 37, wherein said third filter stage comprises microfiber glass.

41(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 40, wherein said microfiber glass is charge-modified.

42(Canceled). A multistage filter as recited in claim 41, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

43(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 37, wherein said third filter stage comprises a material that selectively removes turbidity-related components, sediment, and some organic materials.

44(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 37, wherein said third filter stage consists of a bed of granular material.

45(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 37, wherein said filter is connected at the point of use for a water supply.

46(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 37, wherein said liquid is water.

47(Canceled). A multistage liquid filter as recited in claim 30, wherein said liquid is water.

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